AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Replace the indicated paragraphs with the paragraphs below:

Last paragraph, page 4 – One embodiment is a method to enhance wound healing by providing to a wound a composition of a physiologically acceptable salt of hyaluranic acid and an iodine complex under conditions (e.g., for a sufficient duration) sufficient to enhance healing of the wound. The iodine complex comprises a solution of iodine and potassium ~~iodine~~ iodide. The composition may be applied to the wound directly or indirectly (e.g., on a wound-contacting portion of a bandage), and minimizes adherence of the wound-contacting portion to the wound. The composition disinfects the wound and reduces further infection, removes wound secretions thereby reducing wound maceration, maintains wound hydration, and enhances granulation and epithelial cell formation of wounded tissue.

Second paragraph, page 5 – Another embodiment is a method of minimizing or preventing adhesion to a wound of a wound-contacting surface of a bandage or other wound covering. A hyaluranic acid, iodine, and potassium ~~iodine~~ iodide composition is provided to a wound and covered, or the composition is applied to the wound covering, which is then applied to the wound. The treated surface of the covering has reduced or prevented adhesion to the wound.

Third paragraph, page 5 – Another embodiment is a method to enhance wound healing by providing a wound with a biocompatible hyaluranic acid, iodine, and potassium ~~iodine~~ iodide composition for a sufficient duration to enhance wound healing. The wound can then be covered. Alternatively, the composition can be provided on a wound-contacting surface of a bandage or other wound covering. The wound can be monitored as it heals. Iodine and potassium ~~iodine~~ iodide in the composition disinfect the wound.

First paragraph, page 6 – Another embodiment is a composition of a physiologically acceptable formulation of iodine, potassium ~~iodine~~ iodide, and hyaluranic acid for wound healing. The composition may be formulated as a solution or a gel, and may be applied directly or indirectly to wounded tissue. Iodine may be at a concentration ranging from 0.05 to 2.5% by weight of the composition and potassium ~~iodine~~ iodide may be at a concentration ranging from 0.05 to 5% by weight of the composition. The hyaluranic acid may be 0.05 to 10% by weight of the composition, it may have a molecular weight ranging from 200,000 to 2,500000, and may be a salt of sodium, potassium, lithium, calcium, magnesium, zinc, cobalt, or manganese

Fourth paragraph, page 6 – The disadvantages stated in the background of the invention and the aims laid out above are solved by the preparation for wound healing and prevention of bandage

adhesion to the wound according to the invention. The subject-matter of the invention is a preparation containing physiologically acceptable salt of hyaluronic acid having the molecular weight in the range from 200,000 to 2,500,000 in gel or solution together with iodine and potassium ~~iodine~~ iodide.

Third paragraph, page 7 – The preparation according to the invention may contain preferably contains a physiologically acceptable salt of hyaluronic acid in the concentration from 0.05 to 10% by weight, iodine in the concentration from 0.05 to 2.5 % by weight, and potassium ~~iodine~~ iodide in the concentration from 0.05 to 5% by weight as substances with antiseptic properties acting bacteriostatically and fungistatically.

Fourth paragraph, page 7 – One embodiment of the invention is a preparation containing a physiologically acceptable salt of hyaluronic acid in the concentration from 0.05 to 10.0 % by weight, iodine in the concentration from 0.075 to 1 % by weight, and potassium ~~iodine~~ iodide in the concentration from 0.075 to 1 % by weight.

Second paragraph, page 8 – A combination of suitable salts of hyaluronic acid with iodine and potassium ~~iodine~~ iodide is itself able to satisfy the above mentioned conditions. Salts of hyaluronic acid belong to the most hydrophilic molecules in nature. The preparation ensures the secretion of tissue fluid after its application on the gauze and the wound and also a constantly damp environment. In a combination with iodine and potassium ~~iodine~~ iodide it disinfects the wound for a short time which provides a clean environment in the wound. The salts of hyaluronic acid have also a strong healing effect, they act very positively during all phases of the healing process. This all has a positive effect on the formation of granulation tissue and the following epithelisation and thereby the healing of the wound. The advantage is also the possibility of bandage monitoring and the fact that only the wound itself is hydrated and the skin around the wound is intact.

Third paragraph, page 8 – The preparation according to the invention activates keratinocytes to produce cytokines in contrary to iodine and potassium ~~iodine~~ iodide separately (an iodine complex) and hyaluronan separately. The cytokines produced are the activators and chemoatractants for different cells of white line which shows up in a speeded wound cleaning and a preparation of the wound surface for the formation of granulation tissue. Furthermore, they activate keratinocytes which allows the ingrowth of the wound. The above mentioned unexpected effects are not exhibited by either one of the three components of the preparation according to the invention if applied separately. Iodine in combination with another oligomer or polymer substances is used in some preparations (e.g. Betadine). In our case, it is not possible to use the

combination of hyaluronane as a polymer substance and iodine directly since it is not possible to reach the required concentration of iodine in solution. For this reason potassium ~~iodine~~ iodide is added forming the iodine complex. The iodine complex has the requested solubility in water as well as the combination of iodine and potassium ~~iodine~~ iodide is more acceptable for the cells than the iodine alone.

Second paragraph, page 9 – 0.1 g of iodine is dissolved in the solution of 0.15 g of potassium ~~iodine~~ iodide in 50 ml of sterile water for injection. Furthermore, 1.5 g of sodium hyaluronate having the molecular weight 1,000,000 is dissolved in 50 ml of sterile water for injection. The solutions are prepared separately and they are separately sterilized. They are mixed together under sterile conditions after sterilization. The highly viscous solution that is produced can be applied directly to the wound which is afterwards covered by the bandage or it can be applied to the bandage which is afterwards placed on the wound.

Third paragraph, page 9 – 1.0 g of iodine is dissolved in the solution of 1.5 g of potassium ~~iodine~~ iodide in 50 ml of sterile water for injection. Furthermore, 1.5 g of sodium hyaluronate having the molecular weight 1,500,000 is dissolved in 50 ml of sterile water for injections. The solutions are prepared separately and they are separately sterilized. They are mixed together under sterile conditions after sterilization. The highly viscous solution which is produced can be applied directly to the wound which is covered afterwards by the bandage or it can be applied to the bandage, which is afterwards placed on the wound.

Second paragraph, page 10 – 0.5 g of iodine is dissolved in the solution of 0.75 g of potassium ~~iodine~~ iodide in 50 ml of sterile water for injection. The gel of hyaluronate having the molecular weight 1,500,000 is produced by mixing 2 g of hyaluronan with 50 ml of water for injection in a separate flask. The solution and the gel are prepared separately and they are also separately sterilized. They are mixed together under sterile conditions after sterilization. It is possible to apply the produced gel in a thin layer directly to the wound which is afterwards covered by the bandage.